

CHAPTER XV.

1808.

The Republic of Batavia —The crown of Holland offered to Louis —Offer and refusal of the crown of Spain —Napoleon's attempt to get possession of Brabant— Napoleon before and after Erfurt— A remarkable letter to Louis— Louis summoned to Paris—His honesty and courage —His bold language— Louis' return to Holland, and his letter to Napoleon—Harsh letter from Napoleon to Louis — Affray at Amsterdam—Napoleon's displeasure and last letter to his brother — Louis' abdication in favor of his son— Union of Holland to the French Empire — Protest of Louis against that measure — Letter from M. Otto to Louis.

WHILE Bonaparte was the chief of the French Republic he had no objection to the existence of a Batavian Republic in the north of France, and he equally tolerated the Cisalpine Republic in the south. But after the coronation all the Republics, which were grouped like satellites round the grand Republic,, were converted into kingdoms subject to the Empire, if not avowedly, at least in fact. In this respect there was no difference between the Batavian and Cisalpine Republics.¹ The

¹ It may be interesting to detail the various Republics formed or renamed during the Revolutionary wars. France itself, declared a Republic on 21st September, 1792, became an Empire in 1804. The Batavian Republic was formed of Holland in 1795; it became a kingdom under Louis Bonaparte in 1806, and after being annexed to the French Empire in 1810 fell to the House of Orange in 1815. Switzerland became the Helvetic Republic in 1798, and the Swiss Confederation in 1805. The Valais, occupied by the French in 1801, was made a separate Republic in 1802: it was annexed to the Empire in 1810, and restored to Switzerland in 1815. Another of the Swiss States, the Pays de Vaud, was named the République Lemanique in 1798, and ended as a separate Canton. The Republic of the Seven Islands was formed of the Ionian Islands, taken from Venice and given to France in 1797 by the Treaty of Campo-Formio. Then, having been taken by the Russians and Turks, they were formed into the République des Sept Îles in 1800, and were so recognized by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802. They were restored to France by Russia under the Treaty of Tilsit in 1807, but were taken by the English in 1809. From 1815 the Republic remained under English protection till 1864, when the English withdrew, and the Republic joined Greece. The little Republic of Ragusa was occupied by the French in 1806, and its government was broken up in 1808, after which it became part of the Illyrian provinces,